Headquarters Air Force Doctrine Center

Integrity - Service - Excellence

AFDD 2-1.4 *Countersea Operations*

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Summary of Revisions

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[AFDD 2-1.4] is revised substantially…new chapter headings and sections, expanded discussion on planning and employment factors, operational considerations, effects-based methodology and the emphasis on operations vice capabilities or platforms.

Specific changes:

- **Additions of the naval warfighter's perspective to enhance understanding of maritime forces environment, doctrine, and operations**
- **Comparison between Air Force and Navy/Marine Corp terminology**
- **Awareness of the difference in terminology / semantics**
- **Amphibious operations organization, command and control, and planning are also included throughout**

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Foreword

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Countersea Operations (CS) are about the use of Air Force capabilities in the maritime environment to accomplish the JFC's objectives….supports DOD Directive 5100.1 requirements for surface sea surveillance, anti-air warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, and anti-submarine warfare….Conducted in the maritime environment through counterair, strategic attack, air interdiction, CAS, and ISR operations. Air Force forces also provide vital air mobility support to maritime forces through air refueling.

CS objective—to gain and maintain control of the maritime environment in order to achieve maritime superiority….Air Force forces are inherently capable whether achieving effects in the air, on land, or on the sea. Air, space, and information forces of the Air Force, working in concert with naval forces, make a significant contribution to US dominance of the maritime environment

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Foundational Doctrine Statements

Foundational doctrine statements are the basic principles and beliefs upon which AFDDs are built. Other information in the AFDDs expands on or supports these statements.

- CS operations are those operations conducted to attain and maintain a desired degree of maritime superiority by the destruction, disruption, delay, diversion, or other neutralization of threats in the maritime environment.

- CS operations are equally relevant to shallow littoral “brown” water as well as the deep “blue” water environment.

- Air Force capabilities can extend the reach and increase the flexibility of naval surface, subsurface, and aviation assets, playing a key role in controlling the maritime environment. Air Force and Navy capabilities synergistically employed enable the joint force to control the maritime environment.

Foundational Doctrine Statements (cont.)

- US military airpower is particularly suited to dominating the maritime environment by virtue of its inherent offensive character, precision, speed, range, and flexibility.
- Air Force forces can provide rapid and large area coverage and often engage the adversary long before other forces arrive, transitioning swiftly from defensive to offensive roles to dominate the maritime environment.
- Command relationships should be tailored to account for supported and supporting roles in joint or multinational actions.
- Regardless of the support relationship, Air Force forces are best utilized when employed by a single air component commander exercising centralized control and decentralized execution of joint air operations.
- The COMAFFOR whether acting as Service component commander or dual-hatted as joint force air and space component commander, should be prepared and equipped to perform CS operations either in support of maritime forces or as a supported commander when directed by higher authority.

Foundational Doctrine Statements (cont.)

- Detailed coordination is required when operating Air Force forces in proximity to US Navy forces or when Air Force forces are placed under tactical control or in support of the navy composite warfare commander.

- Until the requisite combat power exists ashore, the amphibious operation is quite vulnerable. It is during this transition from afloat to ashore that Air Force forces can create needed effects and play a pivotal role in the success of the amphibious operation.

- Due to the inherently joint nature of most CS operations, liaisons serve a vital and active role in coordinating and planning effects in the maritime environment.

- Air Force members can be expected to be liaisons to the joint force maritime component commander and/or the commander, Naval forces, during joint maritime operations. These Air Force liaisons within the staff(s) of the respective maritime commander offer tactical expertise, operational guidance, proper doctrinal implementation and real-time coordination of operations with Air Force forces.

Foundational Doctrine Statements (cont.) & Terminology

- Air Force forces provide rapid and large area surveillance and reconnaissance coverage, often arriving on station prior to other forces. This coverage can be used to observe the maritime environment in a homeland security role or overseas.

- One of the most important aspects of countersea preparation is training. Training should be realistic, subject to constant review and evaluation, and reflect the range of military operations in the maritime environment

Definition of CS Operations: Operations conducted to attain and maintain a desired degree of superiority over maritime operations by the destruction, disruption, delay, diversion, or other neutralization of threats to maritime capability. The main objectives of countersea operations are to dominate the maritime environment and prevent the opponent from doing the same. (AFDD 2-1.4)

Naval Doctrine Center Terms

air warfare. A US Navy/US Marine Corps term used to indicate that action required to destroy or reduce to an acceptable level the enemy air and missile threat. It includes such measures as the use of interceptors, bombers, antiaircraft guns, surface–to–air and air–to–air missiles, electronic attack, and destruction of the air or missile threat both before and after it is launched. Other measures which are taken to minimize the effects of hostile air action are cover, concealment, dispersion, deception (including electronic), and mobility. Also called AW.

littoral. A coastal region (Webster, 10th ed). The term littoral, as it applies to naval operations, is not restricted to the limited oceanographic definition encompassing the world's coastal regions. Rather, it includes that portion of the world's land masses adjacent to the oceans within direct control of and vulnerable to the striking power of sea-based forces. (NPD-1)

Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS). Fire provided by Navy surface gun, missile, and electronic-warfare systems in support of a unit or units on land. (NDP-1)

Naval Doctrine Center Terms (cont.)

power projection. The application of offensive military force against an enemy at a chosen time and place. Maritime power projection may be accomplished by amphibious assault operations, attack of targets ashore, or support of sea control operations. (NDP-1)

surface warfare. That portion of maritime warfare in which operations are conducted to destroy or neutralize enemy naval surface forces and merchant vessels. Also called SUW.

undersea warfare. Operations conducted with the intention of denying the enemy the effective use of submarines. Also called USW. (This term was formerly known as antisubmarine warfare.)

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Questions?

At the heart of warfare lies doctrine